



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Civil Society Organization to Facilitate Mountain Communities - Government Dialogues

1. BACKGROUND

The mountain communities are among the most disadvantaged of the world, while at the same time playing an important role in the sustainable development of our planet. The mountain ecosystems and communities are impacted by the effects of climate change, while their traditional knowledge and biocultural heritage are critical for addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation and food security. Despite the importance of mountain peoples and environments, they are often overlooked in the national and international planning and negotiations processes and do not receive adequate support and resources to build resilience and ensure sustainable development.

It's critical to support mountain communities in establishing long-lasting processes and policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments. In particular, High Level Political Forum (HLPF) presents an opportunity to raise awareness of the issues affecting mountain peoples and ecosystems. The theme of the HLPF this year is "*transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*". It will be addressing 5 key SDG's. These are: Goals 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (access to modern energy), 11 (safe cities and human settlements), 12 (sustainable production and consumption patterns), and Goal 15 (life on land).

Support for mountain communities in their efforts in environmental management and sustainable development is also a priority in respect to all Small Grants Program (SGP) strategic initiatives, particularly those related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, agroecology and social inclusion. SGP was a key actor in the world mountain forum and now sits on the Mountain Partnerships steering committee based at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

Therefore, in preparation for HLPF, SGP is launching CSO-Government Dialogues focusing on topics relevant to mountain communities in Lesotho, Bhutan, Tajikistan, PNG, Nepal and Guatemala. To advance these dialogues, SGP invites proposals from qualified civil society organizations representing mountain communities to carry out a national CSO-Government dialogue in Lesotho.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness among governments representatives and policy makers of the impact mountain ecosystems are having on mountain dependent peoples in their countries, and of the contributions these communities are making to proper management of mountain ecosystems in the realization of SDG's related to food security, agriculture, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- To ensure that the priorities and perspectives of mountain communities are embedded in their countries' HLPF discussion towards the SDG's as well as later for post-HLPF implementation;
- To strengthen relationships and foster trust and understanding between Mountain Communities and their national governments;

3. **SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND DURATION**

Based on the above objectives, the civil society organization is expected to deliver the following:

- Organization and facilitation of a National level meeting/dialogue among mountain communities and government. This should be complimented by sub-national level meetings/dialogues, with the National dialogue prioritized for completion by **April 30, 2018**.

Participants in the dialogue should include a balance of representatives from a diversity of regions and landscapes within the country, including mountain and low land communities, with attention to achieving gender balance and strong representation of youth and grassroots representatives.

- Documentation and Brief Report of the Dialogues that includes, but not limited to: 1) key issues that are faced by mountain communities; 2) key solutions: approaches and tools; 3) national or sub-national level key actions; and 4) recommendations to the HLPF.
- Report of the National Dialogue should be completed by **April 30, 2018**; and the two sub-national dialogues by and the full report and documentation of the Mountain dialogues by **May 31st, 2018**.
- Identification of an iconic community project within the Senqu River Basin that addresses the issues and national level recommendations that are spelt out in the National dialogue report; and further elaborated in the final dialogue report.

4. **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS**

SGP will consider proposals from qualified locally registered non-governmental and community based organizations with a strong commitment to mountain issues and experience in implementing dialogues of this nature.

5. **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF PROPONENTS**

- Familiarity with key issues and priorities of mountain peoples' from a diversity of regions throughout the country.
- Experience in organizing and hosting dialogues/workshops with community and government representatives;
- Ability to collate (or produce if necessary) high quality background materials on relevant issues;

- Proven ability to facilitate in an effective and balanced way a dialogue that includes diverse actors and perspectives to ensure that voices are heard and exchanges are constructive;
- Proven ability to document the dialogue(S) and produce a high quality written report ;
- Familiarity with UNDP or SGP programming or work is an advantage.

6. **Contractual Modalities**

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) modality will be used whereby a memorandum of agreement (MOA) will be signed to facilitate disbursement of the grant as per UNDP/GEF SGP Policy and procedures. The Coordinating Committee/Group will provide guidance and quality assurance and oversee the process as it unfolds.

7. **Proposal Submission**

Proposals following the format provided and a detailed and costed work plan should be submitted by **17:00 hours, 8 April, 2018**, and should be sent to: registry.ls@undp.org and clearly marked with a subject line: **SGP CSO-Government Dialogues**

8. **Evaluation Criteria**

- Relevant Experience and track record of the civil society organization
- Proposed Methodology

9. **Annexes to the Terms of Reference**

- Mountain Communities – Government Dialogue Proposal Template
- SGP OP 6 Brochure
- Reporting Form for Mountain Dialogues

10. **For Queries and More Information**

Please contact **Ms. Nthabiseng Majara**, National coordinator – GEF Small Grants Programme in Lesotho, Tel: +266 22313790 Mobile: +266 58753319 or by email at: nthabiseng.majara@undp.org

Signed: _____

Nthabiseng Majara
National Coordinator
GEF Small Grants Programme Lesotho